

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 30



For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. Though its root grows old in the earth, and its stump dies in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant.

— Job 14:7-9

In my experience, not many congregations observe Holy Saturday. We often go directly from the agony of Good Friday to the joy of Easter Day. But *The Book of Common Prayer* provides a lovely office for this day. The collect includes a striking petition: “Grant that, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life.”

In other words, even resurrection pauses for sabbath rest. Our culture does not easily embrace sabbath rest, nor does contemplation of death come easily. But Easter does not come without Good Friday. New life does not come without the end of an old life.

If we are to make real the new creation in our world, I wonder what of our old life will have to die to bring about new life. Perhaps our constant busyness will have to pause so that we might make room for rest and contemplation. Certainly our pursuit of wealth must die if we are to share our abundance with those in need.

As we long for the joy of Easter, let us dwell here a moment. Let us bravely gaze at death, knowing that new life awaits.

— Scott Gunn